

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 H-02 SS-15 NSC-10

SY-10 /083 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ OA/ AVP: WPCLAPPIN: JO

6/14/73 EXT. 20827

APPROVED BY EB/ OA/ AVP: RJWAMANN

FAA - MR. CASUCCI (SUBS)

L/ EB - MR. GAITHER (SUBS)

EA/ ANZ - MR. HALL

EB/ OA/ AN - MR. GALLAGHER (DRAFT)

COMM - MR. SULLIVAN

EB/ OA/ AVP - MR. SILBERSTEIN

----- 093302

P R 142203 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - IMPORTATION OF ANTI- HIJACKING EQUIPMENT

1. AMERICAN AIRLINES HAS INFORMED FEDERAL AVIATION
ADMINISTRATION (FAA) THAT IT HAS DELIVERED MAGNETOMETERS
(ELECTRONIC METAL DETECTING DEVICES) TO AUCKLAND, SYDNEY
AND MELBOURNE FOR USE IN PRESCREENING PASSENGERS PURSUANT
TO FAA REGULATIONS TO DETER HIJACKINGS. AMERICAN REPORTS
THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT EACH
OF THESE LOCATIONS THAT MAGNETOMETERS WILL BE ADMITTED
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ONLY IF SOME 55 PERCENT DUTY (ABOUT 950 DOLLARS PER
MAGNETOMETER) IS PAID OR, ALTERNATIVELY, IF AMERICAN
POSTS BOND AND SIGNS AGREEMENT TO REMOVE MAGNETOMETERS
FROM COUNTRY WITHIN ONE YEAR OF IMPORTATION.

2. YOU MAY RECALL (STATE A-3, JAN 1973) THAT FAA
REGULATIONS, WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE JAN 5, 1973,
REQUIRE US AIR CARRIERS TO PERFORM PRE- FLIGHT ANTI-
HIJACKING INSPECTIONS OF ALL PASSENGERS ON ALL FLIGHTS
AT HOME AND ABROAD. THE MAGNETOMETERS IN QUESTION ARE
TO BE USED IN THE REQUIRED PRESCREENING CHECKS AND ARE,
THEREFORE, TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED BY THE US AIR
CARRIER TO CONFORM ITS OPERATIONS TO US GOVERNMENT LEGAL
REQUIREMENTS.

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3. FOR CANBERRA, WELLINGTON: AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
BOTH HAVE BEEN FOUND BY US COMMERCE DEPT TO BE COUNTRIES
WHICH DO NOT, REPEAT NOT RECIPROCATATE WITH US IN ALLOWING
FREE IMPORTATION OF ALL ITEMS OF GROUND HANDLING EQUIP-
MENT USED BY AIR CARRIERS IN VIEW OF THEIR POLICIES AND
PRACTICES WHICH DO NOT PERMIT SUCH FREE IMPORTATION.
IN ADDITION, US CUSTOMS HAS NOT YET BEEN ASKED TO RULE
ON WHETHER OR NOT MAGNETOMETERS WOULD BE INCLUDED AMONG
ITEMS USED BY AIR CARRIERS WHICH WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR
FREE ENTRY INTO US AS GROUND EQUIPMENT. NONETHELESS, WE
CONSIDER AND BELIEVE HOST GOVERNMENTS WOULD AGREE IT
WOULD BE IN PARAMOUNT INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED
TO FACILITATE ENTRY OF THIS RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT OF
EQUIPMENT TO BE USED IN EFFORTS TO DETER HIJACKING
AND IMPROVE SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION.

4. EMBASSIES REQUESTED TO MAKE APPROACHES TO CIVAIR
AUTHORITIES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES HOST GOVERN-
MENT TO DETERMINE (A) IF SOME EXCEPTION TO GENERAL IMPORT
POLICY POSSIBLE TO PERMIT FREE ENTRY AND USE OF MAGNETO-
METERS BY AMERICAN AND OTHER US CARRIERS IN SUPPORT OF
ANTI- HIJACKING PROGRAMS; (B) IN EVENT (A) NOT POSSIBLE,
TO DETERMINE IF ONE YEAR PERIOD FOR ENTRY UNDER BOND
REPORTED BY AMERICAN CAN BE EXTENDED FOR AN INDEFINITE
PERIOD DURING WHICH IT MAY BE CONSIDERED DESIRABLE
AND NECESSARY TO CONTINUE PRESCREENING CH
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CANBERRA
MELBOURNE
SYDNEY
WELLINGTON
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